

Challenges to Sexual and Relationship Education in Europe

Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 13.00 - 15.00

Room: PHS P4B001

Livestream @ www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu

Sexuality education addresses the need to foster emotional-sexual intelligence and the capacity for healthy, intimate bonding and growth. It should be built around the understanding of the concepts of consent, equity and respect for one's own boundaries and those of others, in intimate relationships and in society.

Parents can - and must - play a key role in helping their own children develop healthy relationships. However, they cannot foster these skills in their children's friends, peers and future partners. Only society as a whole can embrace this mission and invest in children and young people's emotional and sexual competence today; to increase their well-being and prevent violence, coercion and gender inequity in the future. Sexuality education plays a key role in empowering young people to make decisions over their own bodies.

Social pressure caused by a rigid interpretation of harmful traditional views of femininity and masculinity, particularly in relation to sex and relationships, is the root-cause of mental and physical harm and violence among and towards young people. We cannot fight discrimination and gender inequality if we don't look at both the causes and the effects.

Moderator:



Irene Donadio is a senior advocate, leading expert on sexual and reproductive rights and youth and spokesperson for IPPF EN. In her capacity as Senior Lead on Strategy and Partnership of the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network, the largest global NGO defending sexual and reproductive health and rights for all in over 150 countries (ippfen.org), she provides strategic guidance and drive innovative partnerships and alliances on behalf of her organization.



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Speakers:



Hans Olsson (Sweden, Advisor Manager Sexuality Education, RFSU) will discuss just what makes good sexual *good* – what are the necessary conditions for good sexual and relationship education? Using a multimedia approach Hans Olsson will explore just how important the need for a gender and cross-disciplinary perspectives in sexual and relationship education are, and just how crucial it is to explore sexuality, relationship and LGBTIQ issues in schools.



Antonina Lewandowska (Poland) is a youth SRHR advocate, sex educator, feminist and activist. Cofounder and between 2014 and 2017 member of Youth Group Te Tematy (That Subject), member of Ponton Group of Sex Educators since 2015. Mainly interested in peer to peer education and fight for SRHR in Poland. An NGO observer of the Health Committee in the Polish government. Student at the University of Warsaw (sociology major).



Jad Amine Zeitouni (Belgium) is a law student at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. He has always been very active in various youth organisations and has participated in Model United Nations, Model European Unions, Youth Parliaments, debates, etc. throughout the whole world. He will be the director of UN Women in LIMUN, Commissioner of the Beirut Model European Union and Vice-President of the European Parliament of Granada MEU in the first months of 2018. He is a fervent feminist and recently had the opportunity to work with CHanGE, a campaign for sexual Health and Gender Equality for which he travelled to Uganda and got in touch with various UN bodies, NGO's, changemakers, top and bottom up organisations and projects who are fighting every day for gender equality. He has been using his passion and fire to help organize various events from slampoetry against taboos about menstrual hygiene to campaigns about sexual harassment.



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Ivona Miletić (Croatia) currently holds a Professional Baccalaureate of International Relations and Diplomacy which she obtained at University College Dag Hammarskjöld. She is the Vice-President of her local Social Democratic Party, Vice-President of her local Social Democratic Youth Forum, a member of city council, and a mother. She uses her knowledge, experience and positions in an attempt to better position of all our citizens, especially women and children. Her passions are human rights, women's rights, LGBT rights, child protection and motherhood.



Chloe Kenny (Ireland) is the S&D trainee for Women's Rights and Gender Equality. She holds a joint degree in European Studies and Hispanic Studies from University College Cork, Ireland and is an alumni of Universitat de Barcelona. In her many lives she has worked as an English teacher in Palma de Mallorca, Spain and Padova, Italy, a Castmember in Disneyland Paris and with the Committee on Regional Development for the European Parliament Secretariat. She's passionate about educational and cultural policy, regional development, gender equality and pop culture. Her two greatest hopes are to see Irish women gaining the right to reproductive freedom by repealing the 8th Amendment and to discuss gender with Harry Styles from One Direction.



Catalina Stefanescu (Romania, Vice-President, Young European Socialists) served as a Member of the Romanian Parliament from 2012 to 2016. For two years she was a member of the Education Committee and was involved in many projects regarding the education of young girls and young mothers. She strongly believe that educating girls and young people is the only way you can change a country. In trying to help this cause, she was a volunteer at an orphanage and spoke with children about education, problems, sexual education and helped with their homework. As YES Vice-President she holds the portfolio on education.